

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14-17 and 20-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14-17 and 20-24 are rejected. Claims 1, 14, 16, 17 and 20 are herein amended. No new matter has been entered. Claims 21-25 are herein canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 4, 6-7, 9-10, 14-17 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 1, 14, 16 and 17 have each been previously amended to recite that the polymer is obtained from “substituted or unsubstituted alkyl acrylate or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl methacrylate wherein substituents are at least one selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, amino, and ammonium substituents”.

Applicants herein amend the claims to remove reference to substitution of the acrylic ester or methacrylic ester (b).

Applicants note that Table 1 indicates that the component that is present at 10 to 80% is butyl acrylate (BA), 2-ethylhexyl acrylate (2EHA) or lauryl methacrylate (LMA). Applicants herein amend claim 1, 14, 16 17 and 20 to clarify the invention by claiming only the above three components.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 4, 6-7, 9-10, 14-17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen et al. (U.S. 6,248,805) in view of Patel et al. (U.S. 5,977,210) and Fujisawa et al. (U.S. 5,977,136). It is the Examiner's position that the colorant of Nguyen et al. is not dissolved in the solvent, i.e. water/solvent mixture, and is dispersed in the copolymer as required in the present claims.

Applicants note that claim 25 is merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants note that Claims 21-25 are allowable because of the specific group of possible polymeric monomers including a polar group. Applicants therefore amend claims 1, 14, 16, 17 and 20 to recite only these possible polymeric monomers, and subsequently cancel claims 21-25. Applicants submit that this action overcomes the cited references independent of proving that the solvent of Nguyen et al. would inherently dissolve any pigment or dye present in the ink.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Application No. 09/492,373
Attorney Docket No. 991444

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Amendment filed: January 25, 2007

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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